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Fiasco Followed By Utter Chaos

MR. Kennedy says his administration will accept full responsibility for what is now being called the "fiasco" in Cuba, Secretary Udall—the same man who is so interested in the Brownsville-Matamoros oil deal and Padre Island—popped off to the effect that the whole "invasion" was cooked-up by the Eisenhower administration.

Former Vice President Nixon let out a howl, possibly on the theory that if General Eisenhower had planned it, the invasion would have been rather more substantial.

Anyway, Mr. Kennedy's press secretary called a conference later in the day and said the President's administration is accepting full responsibility for whatever went wrong in Cuba.

A reporter asked if that took care of Mr. Udall and the press secretary said it sure did. Later Mr. Udall said he was sorry if his statements gave the wrong impression.

RATHER more interesting is the admission that some administration or other—or perhaps two of them acting out a drama—in some manner encouraged, nurtured and sponsored the rebel invasion.

The pattern is almost classic, although this is the first time we have appeared in the role of Grand Manipulator.

The Russians have used Korea as a military exercise.

This, apparently, is our first flight in a "let's-you-and-him-fight" role.

It was not much of a success, as you know. The Central Intelligence Agency—an outfit so secret Congress is forbidden to ask about it—might taken some of the fall. But the CIA is a wary political veteran and has weathered troubles before. Mr. Allan Dulles, its chief, wraps himself in a cloak of mystery disguised as national security, and it is an intrepid congressman who will risk pursuing a question that turns up a genuine military secret.

But, if our intelligence system felt there was much chance of a successful landing, we might reappraise the CIA in earnest. It is chilling to consider that the faulty mechanism of the CIA might as easily have committed us to another world war and with results unbelievably disastrous.

This editorial also appeared
in the following other newspapers:

BROWNSVILLE HERALD, TEXAS - APR 25, 1961
BUCYRUS TELEGRAPH-FORUM,
Ohio - MAY 6, 1961